



## CITY COUNCIL

### Department Description

Columbus City Council is the legislative authority and chief policy-making arm of city government, empowered by City Charter to exercise control over city expenditures. Citizens elect the seven-member council at-large to four-year terms of office. Council's primary responsibilities include: adopting the annual operating and capital budgets, authorizing certain contracts, and enacting amendments to the Columbus City Code. In addition to its fiscal control and regulatory authority, City Council

establishes land use policy through its zoning powers.

### Department Mission

To provide high quality, responsive service to the residents of Columbus, and to demonstrate the utmost respect for the citizens and for each other in a workplace that highly values teamwork, personal integrity, and competence. City Council's overriding goal is to always do what is best for the citizens of the City of Columbus.

The Council works closely with the administrative (executive) branch of city government in the formation of policy impacting public finance, safety, economic development, and the delivery of core city services. City Council also initiates and facilitates on-going cooperative efforts with other government entities, the business community, and

## City Council

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other institutions to improve the overall high quality of life for Columbus residents.

Legislative aides, legislative assistants, and the Legislative Research Office (LRO) provide City Council members information and guidance on public policy decisions impacting public safety, budgetary, economic development, and community matters.

Council appoints the City Clerk, who maintains the journal of City Council activity, codifying general ordinances and maintaining custody of deeds, abstracts, and titles owned by the city. Council also appoints the City Treasurer, whose duties include the investment of all city funds.





## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR 2015

Columbus City Council's 2015 strategic priorities will focus on four areas: serving the needs of all Columbus residents and maintaining public safety as the city's top priority; economic development and job creation efforts through effective partnerships; prudent financial oversight and the maintenance of the city's fiscal health; and keeping commitments to Columbus residents associated with the passage of the 2009 income tax increase. In pursuit of these priorities, Columbus City Council will:

Continue to work with the administration and the respective collective bargaining units to ensure proper staffing levels within the Divisions of Police and Fire, including appropriations for new police and fire classes necessary to maintain the safety of Columbus neighborhoods.

Continue to fund supplemental neighborhood safety strategies, including Community Crime Patrol, and invest sufficient capital and non-general fund dollars in the facilities, vehicles, tools, and technology necessary to maintain public safety.

Continue to work with the administration and strategic partners like the Columbus Chamber and Columbus 2020, to promote economic development and employment opportunities throughout Columbus, and incentivize job creation and continued investment in downtown as the commercial and employment center of the region.

Continue to work with the administration to stabilize neighborhoods through increased investment in infrastructure improvements, the elimination of vacant and abandoned buildings, the development of affordable housing, and the implementation of strategies that promote private investment in underserved communities.

Continue to partner with the Community Shelter Board, the Columbus Neighborhood Health Centers, and other human services providers to deliver basic human services, emergency housing, and healthcare to low-income families and others within the community.

Continue efforts to promote Columbus as a destination for travel and tourism, and to retain Columbus-based talent, through continued investment in Experience Columbus and the Greater Columbus Arts Council, financial and technical support for entrepreneurial startups, targeted investments designed to bring idle properties back into production, and initiatives to support small and minority business development.

Continue to work with the administration to expand the city's environmental agenda, including improvements to city vehicles and facilities, and the promotion of green strategies and incentives that encourage responsible, sustainable development.

Continue to identify and implement policies and practices to make government more effective, efficient, and accessible, including the adoption of new technologies that increase residents' access to public information.

Engage in proactive communication with the public at large and seek input from area commissions, civic organizations, and community groups.

Continue progress toward the goals outlined in the Reform and Efficiency plan, which was designed to strengthen the city's long-term fiscal outlook, including the implementation of cost-savings strategies and the growth of the balance of the Economic Stabilization Fund, or "rainy day" fund, to \$75 million by the end of 2018. Council will also work with the City Auditor to continue the sound fiscal policies that have maintained Columbus' triple-A bond rating.

## 2015 BUDGET NOTES

The budget for City Council includes continuation of the annual maintenance on the automated legislation system and codifying services for the City Clerk’s office.

Department Financial Summary by Area of Expense					
Fund	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Budget	2014 Projected	2015 Proposed
<b>General Fund</b>					
City Council					
Personnel	\$ 2,912,588	\$ 3,047,873	\$ 3,641,081	\$ 3,173,824	\$ 3,556,852
Materials & Supplies	17,844	39,113	22,500	21,000	22,500
Services	2,243,454	87,364	134,134	123,286	135,102
<b>General Fund Subtotal</b>	<b>5,173,886</b>	<b>3,174,350</b>	<b>3,797,715</b>	<b>3,318,110</b>	<b>3,714,454</b>
<b>Hotel/Motel Tax Fund</b>					
City Council					
Services	9,346,800	-	-	-	-
<b>Hotel/Motel Tax Fund Subtotal</b>	<b>9,346,800</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Department Total</b>	<b>\$ 14,520,686</b>	<b>\$ 3,174,350</b>	<b>\$ 3,797,715</b>	<b>\$ 3,318,110</b>	<b>\$ 3,714,454</b>

Department Personnel Summary					
Fund	FT/PT	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Authorized	2015 Authorized
<b>General Fund</b>					
	FT	34	34	38	38
<b>Total</b>		<b>34</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>38</b>

Operating Budget by Program				
Program	2014 Budget	2014 FTEs	2015 Proposed	2015 FTEs
Administration	\$ 3,797,715	38	\$ 3,714,454	38
<b>Department Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,797,715</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>\$ 3,714,454</b>	<b>38</b>

Program descriptions begin on the following page.



# 2015 PROGRAM GUIDE

## ADMINISTRATION

To approve all appropriations and laws for Columbus, and to provide a public forum for the discussion of issues by the citizenry.